



**MERCURY RECORDS**



**COUNTRY & WESTERN**



**BIO-BOOKLET**



# EDDIE BOND

*Rockin' Rhythms*



Eddie Bond, "THE STOMPER", was born in Memphis, Tennessee, July 1, 1933.

While still only a youngster, Eddie has a long career of show business behind him. He taught himself to play guitar at the age of seven, and at the age of ten entered an amateur contest that was broadcast over Radio Station WHBQ in Memphis.

There are no musically inclined members of his family, but Eddie credits his father with being a great help to his career by constant encouragement and guidance.

After graduation from Southside High School, he had two fifteen minute radio programs of his own daily over Station KWEM, West Memphis, Arkansas and also worked the local night club circuit. The experience he gained has developed him into a dynamic stage personality. Eddie is lord and master of the rhythm song, and his many young fans go wild when he rocks all over the stage.

He created so much excitement that he has just been signed to a long term Mercury recording contract.

# THE CARLISLES

*Showmen — Country Style*



THE CARLISLES, namely, Bill Carlisle, Dotty Seals, Robert Lunn, Jr. and Kenny Hill, are today the hottest vocal Country act in the business. Their list of Mercury hits reads like a well-known joke book.

The Carlisles' reputation for being able to draw crowds is sensational. They have in all cases found their second appearance to be even greater than their first in any given city.

Bill Carlisle is a sensational showman due to his ability to work like "mad" and still be one of the finest novelty singers in the business.

The Carlisles have a tremendous following resulting from their stints on radio stations in the following cities: Charlotte, Knoxville and Shreveport. They are now a regular member of the Grand Ole Opry in Nashville. The Carlisles are favorites not only among the record buyers but also the juke box operators. Juke box operators have found that the Carlisles' records have been consistently among their (the Operators) biggest money making records.

The Carlisles' popularity with disc jockeys and juke box operators has been reflected annually for the past three years in all the entertainment industry trade journals.

# JIMMY DEAN

*Back Room Piano  
— Top Drawer Style*



Jimmy was born on a farm near Plainview, Texas, August 10, 1928. He attended Plainview High School where he was center on the football team. During summer vacations from school, Jim worked in an Alfalfa Dehydrating plant, thus becoming the one and only Texan in history to make something small out of something big. While in school, Jim learned to play the accordion and what he calls "back room" style piano.

After High School, Jim joined the Merchant Marines, and traveled throughout the South Pacific. Completing a year's duty with the Merchant Marines, he enlisted in the U.S. Air Force, serving three years. Jim says he was certainly one of the best radio operators in service, as

he had all his favorite jokes down in code, and could have half of the outfit in stitches over a few dots and dashes. It was here that his future as an entertainer became certain, because he was very much in demand to play and sing along with his story telling.

Discharged from service in 1949 at Bolling Air Force Base (just outside Washington, D.C.). Jim started the long hard climb up the ladder of success. For about three years he played the Personal Appearance Circuit in the Washington area, and then became associated with Connie B. Gay, nationally known hill-billy impressario. Soon, he was star of Connie's "Town and Country Time" radio series, which originates daily from WARL,

Arlington, Virginia and is currently heard on 1834 stations throughout the country. Jim is also star of the syndicated film version of "Town and Country Time" which is seen in forty-seven TV markets and plans have just been completed for world-wide distribution of this film.

In January, 1953, Jimmy's original version of "BUMMIN' AROUND" zoomed into the national best selling lists, where it remained for eighteen consecutive

weeks. That was Jim's first record release.

On July 1, 1955, after an absence of almost two years from the recording scene, Jim signed an exclusive recording contract with Mercury Records. His first session was held in Nashville, under the supervision of "D" Kilpatrick, Mercury's Country Music Director. Every Country & Western collector's library is filled with Jimmy Dean's tunes today.

# GEORGE AND EARL

*Damon & Pythias*

To be more specific, GEORGE MC-CORMICK and EARL AYCOCK.

GEORGE was born in Carthage, Tennessee a total of twenty-three years ago.

EARL was born in Meridion, Mississippi twenty-five years ago.

These two Country Music men met and became a duet while performing with the

Mortho Corson show.

George is the proud father of two cute little girls, while Earl has two fine little boys.

Here are two ostute performers who naturolly "teor" on oudience oport on personal appeorances.

Truly one of the gret Country duets now performing.

# JOEY GILLS

*Couldn't Keep Him  
Down on the Farm*



A new MERCURY recording star was born on a farm seven miles from Thibodeaux, Louisiana, January 27, 1929 — JOEY GILLS.

Jaey is one of three brothers and four sisters, all of the brothers being musically inclined, along with his father who plays the fiddle. In between his farm chores, Joey learned to play his brother's guitar and, being left handed, developed an unorthodox way of halding the guitar.

Joey has admired Hank Williams and his songs ever since he first heard him. His only regret is that he did not have the opportunity to meet Hank personally.

Joey works much as Hank did on the stage, and you may note the striking resemblance between the two.

A friend finally persuaded Joey to go see Jay Miller and immediately they were on their way to see Dee Kilpatrick of Mercury. A rush recording session was set as Dee recognized his unique style and vaice.

Radio Station K.T.I.B. in Thibodeaux, Louisiana airs Joey's regular show with his own group each week. In addition to his radia show he frequently makes TV appearances and plays dances. His habbies are song writing, horses and hunting.

# CURTIS GORDON

*Country "Crackerjack"*



One of MERCURY'S Country & Western artist roster is none other than "CURTIS GORDON", the "Mr. Personality" of the Country Music industry.

Curtis was born in Moultrie, Georgia, July 27, 1928. His one and only ambition was to be an entertainer. His early idol, like that of many other Country singers, was the famous folk artist, Jimmy Rodgers.

Curtis' early life was spent on a South Georgia farm. At the ripe old age of 13 he won his first amateur contest. The first prize being \$15.00. Fired by this success, he ran away from home and at 14 was playing guitar with a small country band in Gulfport, Mississippi.

One of Curtis' fondest childhood mem-

ories is of the time his father purchased for him a \$5.00 guitar.

Prior to Curtis' departure from the great state of Georgia, he was known as an excellent young plowhand, earning the total sum of \$1.00 a day for his association with our long-eared friends, commonly called mules.

Curtis appeared regularly over Radio Station WKAB in Mobile, Alabama and was a featured star on the Dixie Barn Dance before going into the Army. Curtis has just finished basic training and has been assigned to Special Service in Fort Jackson, South Carolina.

This handsome "Cracker" stands 6'1" tall and weighs a healthy 180 pounds. His hobbies, in order of their preference, are: horses, records and songs.



# LA DELL SISTERS

*The Right Combination*



Helen, Inez and Dolores, the La DELL SISTERS, are a combination of two trios. Helen and Inez are former members of the La Croix Sisters, who were featured for three years with Roy Acuff on the Grand Ole Opry. Dolores, was a member of the famed Dinning Sisters, who worked network radio and television shows out of the Chicago area.

The girls first met about four years ago when the Dinning Sisters made a guest appearance on the Grand Ole Opry. Each group noticed a similarity in sound and musical taste and they soon became good friends. They never thought of combining until late in 1955, when circumstances and love of good harmony brought what are now the La DELL SISTERS together.

After being together for about a week, the girls engaged the services of some local musicians and made an experimental dub. Everyone who heard it encouraged

them to submit it to the recording companies. W. "D" Kilpatrick of Mercury took one listen and immediately signed them to a long term pact.

Dolores drives about ninety miles each day commuting from her home in Orlinda, Tennessee to Nashville to rehearse with Helen and Inez. Such enthusiasm and eagerness to improve what already sounds like perfection should take the girls to the very top in their field in short order. All three are from musical families and enjoy quite a bit of constructive criticism from them. Their ages range from twenty-one to twenty-five years and they are as lovely a visual act as you'll ever see.

They are now busy recording and getting show dates lined up for the future. Guest appearances on the network television show, "Ozark Jubilee" are already set.

For a musical treat, listen and watch for the La DELL SISTERS. They are la most.

# BENNY MARTIN

*Nothing but Talent*



BENNY MARTIN was born May 8, 1928 in Sparta, Tennessee. Benny being one of four sisters and three brothers, found it necessary to acquire musical talent at an early age. All of Benny's brothers and sisters play at least one musical instrument and all of them are extremely good singers.

Benny made his first radio appearance at the mature age of eleven over Radio Station WHUB in Cookeville, Tennessee. In 1942, Benny joined the Mid-day Merry-Go-Round over Radio Station WNOX in Knoxville, Tennessee.

In the year of 1944 Benny came to Radio Station WLAC in Nashville.

Benny is one of the greatest Country

singers to appear on the horizons of the Country Music industry in a great while. Benny is a very personable young man with a personality that reaches out and envelopes audiences. Besides his wonderful talent for singing, he writes quite well and has had numerous songs recorded, not only by himself, but by other artists, such as "Where Is Your Heart Tonight" which was recorded by Hank Thompson.

Benny married the former Miss Epsey Fikes in 1948. They have three children, Benny, Jr., Linda and Sheila.

Benny's hobbies, as can be imagined, being a Tennessean, are hunting and fishing and song writing, when he has the time. All of his hobbies are suffering as a result of his constant public appearance schedule.

# ROY MOSS

*Mikes-Music-Action*



Six foot, 3 inches of Action and enthusiasm. This black-haired, block-eyed Country entertainer was discovered by the long time favorite Country singer, Jimmie Skinner.

Roy was born in Plainview, Arkansas. Recently Roy experienced his life-long ambition by working on a big Country show in Cincinnati where he practically stole the show.

Roy now performs on Radio Station WNOP in Newport, Kentucky and works personal appearances with The Jimmie Skinner Show.

Roy now makes his home in Detroit, Michigan. He is managed by Jimmie Skinner and Lou Epstein.

Once you see Roy work your reaction

will be the same as many others. There's only one name for Roy Moss and that is "MR. ACTION". Roy literally throws himself into a song and conveys more enthusiasm than any entertainer in the business. His various gyrations in addition to playing guitar while delivering a Country song with an accentuated beat makes him the hottest new property in the Country music field today. A brand new comer to the Country entertainment field who will soon be the favorite of a multitude of Country fans.

So far Roy's only claim to fame is through his first cousin, the Honorable Lieutenant Governor of Arkansas, Orville Chaney.

Roy's army career which ran from 1947 to 1950 included twenty months in Alaska.

It's with extreme pride that Mercury presents Roy "Mr. Action" Moss.

# BUCK RYAN

*Fiddlin' Around to Fame*

BUCK RYAN, a true son of the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia.

This six-foot, bland-haired, blue-eyed, fiddle player extraordinary started his musical career at the early age of fourteen when he appeared on Radio Station WSVB in Harrisonburg, Virginia.

Buck came by the fiddle quite naturally since his father was one of the many fine old-time fiddle players from the Valley of the Shenandoah. At a very early age Mr. Ryan entered Buck in all old-time fiddling contests with much success. The most recent contest Buck entered was the National



Fiddling Contest in 1952 which he readily won.

In 1953 Buck joined Jimmy Dean's "Texas Wildcats" and became associated with Cannie B. Gaye, hillbilly impresario in the Washington D.C. area.

Buck is now a featured act on a daily radio and TV show in Washington. He is also seen on the TV film "Town and Country Time" which is now carried in forty-seven markets. Buck's favorite food is Virginia ham. Buck's chief hobby is fishing. He also enjoys tinkering and tuning his souped-up Oldsmobile when time permits from his very busy Radio TV and personal appearance schedule.

# JIMMIE SKINNER

*Call Me "Colonel" Sur!*



JIMMIE SKINNER was born on a farm near Berea, Kentucky where he learned music from his father who played the five-string banjo. Like many of today's top Country & Western entertainers, he got his inspiration from Jimmie Rodgers, the immortal "Blue Yodeler". Mrs. Rodgers has been a good friend of Jimmie's for years and influenced Ernest Tubb to record one of his first writing efforts, "Let's Say Goodbye Like We Said Hello", both Ernest and Jimmie had big records on this tune. Other hits from his prolific pen include, "Don't Give Your Heart To A Rambler", "Will You Be Satisfied That Way" and "On The Wrong Side Of The Tracks".

With his manager, Lou Epstein, Jimmie owns and operates "The Jimmie Skinner Music Center" in Cincinnati. This large record shop carries perhaps the most complete stock of Country & Western and sacred music in the world. They do a large

mail order business and daily ship records all over the world. Jimmy does a daily broadcast from the store radio station WNOP in Newport, Ky. This show is now in its fifth year.

Jimmie was made a Kentucky Colonel at the annual homecoming in Berea, Ky. recently. He lists this among the greatest thrills of his life.

Jimmie recently signed a long term contract with Mercury Records. Brought along to play the electric mandolin on his first session for Mercury was Ray "Curley" Lunsford who has worked with Jimmie for ten years.

His initial Mercury discs were greeted enthusiastically by the trade and the countless fans who have made JIMMIE SKINNER one of the brightest stars in Country music.

# THE STANLEY BROTHERS

*They Like Mountain Music*



The BROTHERS, STANLEY, namely, Carter and Ralph, front the best banjo, mandolin, and fiddle band in the nation.

The STANLEY BROTHERS and The Clinch Mountain Boys are one of the few acts that experience a good consistent sale on their Mountain ballads and Country tunes and, at the same time, enjoy a very good sale on their sacred records.

Carter & Ralph were born and raised at Stanton, Virginia, in the Clinch Mountain area. They are the two eldest sons of the six boys and four girls of the Stanley family.

The STANLEY BROTHERS and The Clinch Mountain Boys are now in their eighth year at Radio Station WCYB in Bristol, Virginia and are the featured act on WCYB's "Farm and Fun Time", a daily presentation of WCYB for many years.

In addition to their radio activities at WCYB in Bristol, THE STANLEY BROTHERS and The Clinch Mountain Boys do personal appearances in North and South Carolina, Tennessee, Kentucky, Virginia and West Virginia and as far north as Southern Pennsylvania. During the summer season, the Stanleys enjoy an excellent business from the parks in Southern Pennsylvania.

# CARL STORY

*A Likely One-for Success*



CARL STORY can best be identified as the leader of the Ramblin' Mountaineers. A tall, robust, congenial all-around good fellow, CARL started his career on station WLVA, Lynchburg, Virginia.

WLVA was only a start, for he later found himself working on other top Country shows and for five years he was a featured star on the Mid-day Merry-Go-Round over WNOX, Knoxville, Tennessee. CARL made a lot of friends throughout five states served by station WCYB, Bristol, Virginia ... where he appeared on "FARM AND

FUN TIME".

The Ramblin' Mountaineers are currently doing radio and television in Knoxville, Tennessee.

During the war, CARL served two and one-half years in the Navy, and was very popular with the sailors as an entertainer. He's best known for his singing of sacred songs . . . the kind we all enjoy.

CARL was born and raised in Lenoir, North Carolina and his mother still lives there and he visits there as often as possible.

# T. TOMMY

*"T" is for terrific*

Six days of the week T. Tommy spins records for a large and faithful audience in Shreveport, La. over Radio Station KCIJ, on his program known as "T. TOMMY'S CORRAL", and then monogues to squeeze in some personal appearances each week.

Born in Osyke, Mississippi on June 29, 1924, T. Tommy attended school in Osyko and Chotowo, Mississippi and became interested in country music enough to have a band of his own while still in high school.

During his senior year in high school he landed a job on the announcing staff of WSKB, McComb, Mississippi and thus began a radio career.

While working in Houston, (Texas, that is), he met and married his pretty wife, Vicky. They now have two lovely daughters, Zelicio and Zenette.



T. Tommy and family moved to Shreveport in October of 1951, and according to T. Tommy it looks like it will be home for a long time.

T. Tommy has had the unusual experience of having attended a convent (notoriously this was as a day student only) but you should hear the story!

This great entertainer is without a doubt one of the most personable acts in the country music industry today. Tommy has the ability to make his listeners feel that he is a personal friend. Every country entertainer, and literally thousands of them know Tommy personally and each has a very warm spot in their hearts for this young man.

A handsome 180 pounds, 5'11" of personality whose favorite hobby is his two small but very beautiful daughters.



# BILLY WALLACE

*Bill-ed for Stardom*



BILLY WALLACE was born and raised in the cotton Country of Alabama where he was taught to play guitar at a very early age by the colored plantation workers.

While Billy was still in his early teens he started to work in Radio, performing numerous shows weekly for an extremely small amount of money.

At the same time Billy started composing songs. This accomplishment has furnished Billy a great sense of personal satisfaction as well as an excellent monetary remuneration. Some of Billy's biggest songs have been, "BACKSTREET AFFAIR" which was recorded by Webb Pierce and "WHOSE SHOULDER WILL YOU CRY ON" by Kitty Wells. Each of these songs won Billy several annual awards.

Billy's Mercury recording session produced his unusual sound with the Bama Drifters which is so well displayed on "THAT'S MY REWARD".

Billy has had numerous songs recorded by the nation's top Country talent.

This young man is of a retiring nature but one would never guess this fact while watching Billy perform on the stage. He is small in stature but has an enormous amount of talent.

Song-writing which is Billy's vacation as well as his avocation is naturally his best loved hobby. Running a close second is the great Tennessee sport of Fly fishing.

**BILLY WALLACE, the Hillbilly's Hillbilly!!**

# JIM WILSON

*Premium Performer*



Recently, the air waves over Louisville, Kentucky were rent by a piercing scream emanating from the WAVE radio tower. Folks jumped for their radios, but soon discovered nothing was wrong with the set. That was just JIM WILSON starting a brand new hillbilly record show on WAVE.

Though Jim is new to Louisville, he certainly isn't new to Country music. For four years previous to his arrival in Louisville, he was Central Florida's favorite hillbilly singer and D.J., operating out of Orlando, Florida. And before that Jim was the announcer for two years on the Eddy Arnold Checkerboard Jamboree.

Jim, born and raised in Bowling Green, Kentucky, served four years with the Navy right after high school, then went

immediately into radio work. The breaks came fast for Jim, who's gifted with a lot of talent for ad-libbing and the ability to really sell his listeners on his sponsor's products.

In the summer of 1948 he started work for the new Mutual Broadcasting System station in Nashville, Tennessee. Things happened in quick succession then. He met and married Jessie Goodloe, a native Nashvillian. Almost at the same time, Eddy Arnold chose Jim to be his announcer on the Checkerboard Jamboree. The show was heard daily coast-to-coast on the Mutual Broadcasting System, and made thousands of friends for Jim across the country.

In January of 1951 Jim Wilson moved his family to Orlando, Florida on the od-

vice of his doctor to slow down and change to a healthier climate. Jim's unique disc jockey style and outstanding singing voice soon endeared him to every lover of good Country music in Central Florida and converted many a new listener who dialed his way to scorn and stayed to enjoy the show. Jim feels that folks listen to their radio for pleasure, and he works hard to keep his record shows lively and full of fun and laughter for all the listeners.

Folks know Jim is a real authority on Hillbilly music because he worked right in Nashville for two years, and knows most of the stars personally. Jim makes regular trips to Nashville to visit the Grand Old Opry and all his friends there. He also attends conventions and gatherings of Country music stars, fans and D.J.s annually, so that he can keep right up to date on the newest records and the stars who make them.

Jim moved from Orlando to Louisville, Kentucky on March 1, 1955. Though he has been spinning the good Country records on WAVE for only a few weeks, already his mail shows that his two daily shows are becoming a habit with more listeners every day.

Another reason for Jim's ever-growing popularity is his devotion to his field. Country music isn't just a job to him, it's a way of life which his whole family follows. Jim always dresses in western clothes. He has one room in his home sound-proofed and equipped as a regular

broadcasting studio. There he has a complete file of hillbilly records numbering in the thousands, and recording machines which he uses to tape shows for out of town stations, and to record audition tapes on new songs as he writes them.

In addition to his radio shows, Jim has for the past several years, played many personal appearance dates throughout the entire South. And now that he is located in Louisville, he will be able to appear in many towns which were too far away for him to travel before. He finds time for song writing somewhere along the way, too. That is literally, for often when driving, he gets ideas for songs, and just stops beside the road to write them down. He's co-writer of the recent EDDY ARNOLD hit, "MY EVERYTHING" and has several other major releases in the works, including his own current release on Mercury.

Yes, Jim records for Mercury Records, and he wrote the two recitation type songs of his latest release, "DEAR MOM, I'M THINKING OF YOU" and "THE FARMER AND THE LORD". Jim had good luck with his previous releases on other labels, too. They include "Remember Me, I'm the One Who Loves You", "I've Found My Own", "If I Should Need You", "Old Home Town", "Unwanted Love", and "Big Fat Mama", another tune which he wrote himself.

Jim and Jessie now have four children, Jan, June, Jay and Jyl. When Jim has a little time off he can usually be found with his entire family at their favorite sports: boating, swimming and water-skiing.

# BILL WIMBERLY

*Platter Specialist  
Fashion and Wax*



Bill Wimberly And The Cauntry Rhythm Bays naw a featured attractian an Red Faley's Ozark Jubilee, ABC's popular Saturday night network television shaw fram Springfield, Missauri, are praving ta be ane af the hottest Cauntry Western Bands in the natian.

Devatees af Western music declare this the greatest group af Western musicians that can be had. Every musician, a star in his awn field, cantributes ta the group, not only great music but the advantage af sala, tria and quartet vacal numbers which are always enthusiastically received by their thousands af fans.

Bill Wimberly, known as "the little guy with the big wanderful smile" has devated mast af his life ta Western, Swing and Cauntry music.

Wimberly, naw 32, gat a youthful start in the Country music business. His reputation as a fine young drummer had spread far beyond the city limits af tiny (papulation 800) Avant, Oklahoma, when Bab Wills, all time great af the "Western Swing" bands, had Bill called fram his high schaal classraam ane marning in 1939 to discuss the passibility af Wimberly's jaining the then famaus "Texas Play-bays." As a result af the canversation that day, Bill spent his entire senior year commuting fram dance jabs and persanal appearances ta his classes at Avant High, even taking several weeks aut far a trek ta Hallywaad ta wark in a Western movie.

Entering the Army in '41, Bill organized his awn Western band, tauring Eurape far twa years with a Special Services Unit headed by matian picture star, Mickey

Rooney and television-star-to-be Red Buttons. When mustered out of uniform in 1945, Bill organized his present personnel and went in for uniforms of a different sort - Western band costumes so colorful and handsomely tailored that they have won him the reputation of having the "best dressed band in the business".

Chuck Bowers, Wimberly's top vocalist, was born in Wichita, Kansas and schooled at nearby Mulvane, Kansas. Chuck began singing professionally while still a lad. His first radio job came ten years ago at station KWTO, Springfield, Mo., the city where the Jubilee originates. In the intervening years he has also been heard on WHB, Kansas City, KSOO, Sioux Falls,

S.D., and KIMO in former President Truman's hometown, Independence, Mo. One-eighth Cherokee Indian, Chuck is dark in complexion and hair. Though still in his early thirties, he looks back upon fifteen years of professional entertaining.

Kansas and Oklahoma are famous as rich territories for Country and Western Music, and Bill Wimberly's "Country Rhythm Boys" were tops in that area until they joined the Ozark Jubilee in June of 1955 and began earning the huge coast-to-coast following that they have today. The group is booked through Top Talent, Inc., Springfield, Mo., and MCA, whose offices are located in all major cities.